

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

DEPT OF TREASURY

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

CMDT COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:APRIL 15 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

AT SFRC EXECUTIVE SESSION AT WH MONDAY, PRES ASKED SWIFT ACTION ON VN EMERGENCY AID AND EVACUATION REQUESTS, BUT SENATORS LATER INDICATED LITTLE LIKELIHOOD PRES WILL GET ALL REQUESTED. SENATE DEM CAUCUS EARLIER ALL BUT REJECTED ADMIN CALL FOR MORE MIL AID (WIEGHART, NYDN), AND "VIGOROUSLY UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPOSED" USE US TROOPS TO EVACUATE "NON-AMERICANS" FROM SVN; BUT ACCEPTED LIMITED TROOP USE TO RESCUE AMERICANS -- FIRST STRONG SIGNAL DEMS NOT GOING ALONG WITH PRES' REQUEST FOR VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED AUTHORITY TO USE US TROOPS FOR SVN

EVACUATION. SENTIMENT MOUNTING FOR RAPID, IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL US PERSONNEL FROM SVN TO AVOID TROOP USE LATER TO RESCUE THEM (MCCARTNEY, PHINQ). SEN CASE PREDICTS CONGRES WILL ALLOW PRES "DEGREE OF DISCRETION" BY GIVING SVN LIMITED ADDITIONAL MIL AID. CONGRESS APPEARS PREPARED GIVE PRES AUTHORITY USE TROOPS TO EVACUATE AMERICANS FROM SVN, BUT CONCERN GROWING THAT ADMIN'S PROPOSAL FOR EVACUATION TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VIETS COULD LEAD TO NEW MIL INVOLVEMENT. SECSTATE, SECDEF, GEN WEYAND ACCOMPANIED PRES IN APPEARANCE BEFORE SFRC. DISAGREEMENT REPORTED BETWEEN SFRC, PRES

OVER SPEED OF US WITHDRAWAL. ADMIN OFFICIALS INDICATE WITHDRAWAL BEING ACCELERATED BUT WITH DELIBERATE ATTEMPT NOT TO CALL ATTENTION TO FACT. SFRC ALSO TOOK OCCASION PRESENT PESSIMISTIC MOOSE/MEISSNER SVN SITUATION REPORT THAT CONCLUDED TIME RUNNING OUT FOR GVN AS FOR SAFE EVACUATION. HABIB SAID MIL, HUMANITARIAN AID GO HAND-IN-HAND IN TERMS OF ADMIN'S POLICY OBJECTIVES (FINNEY, NYT).

CASE SUGGESTED CONGRESS MIGHT APPROVE SOME ARMS AID TO BRING AREA DEGREE OF STABILITY, PERMIT SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. DESCRIPTIONS OF PRES-SFRC MEETING GIVE FIRST INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE COMPROMISE BETWEEN CONGRESS AND ADMIN ON WHAT US SHOULD AIM FOR IN NEXT PHASE OF INDOCHINA POLICY (PEPPER, SUN). EMERGENCY LEGISLATION THAT WOULD INCLUDE CONTINGENCY FUND OF MIL AID TO HELP EXTRICATE US PERSONNEL FROM SVN REPORTEDLY BEGAN DEVELOP FROM FORD-SFRC MEETING. GREAT DOUBT EXISTS IN CONGRESS ABOUT GVN ABILITY TO SURVIVE. HABIB, WHILE ADVOCATING LONG-TERM AID, ACKNOWLEDGED "OMINOUS SITUATION" NOW PREVAILS IN SVN (MARDER/RICH, WP).

NYDN'S GREENE BELIEVES EVACUATION COULD BE STICKIEST PART OF VN WAR. CSM'S HEY WONDERS WHEN US EXODUS FROM SAIGON WILL START, SEES IDEA OF MAJOR IMMEDIATE EVACUATION COMPETING IN CONGRESS WITH CONCEPT OF QUIETLY PHASING-OUT US PRESENCE. LAT'S MCARTHUR IN SAIGON (4/12) NOTED US EVACUATION GOING ON, THOUGH EMBASSY OFFICIALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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STANDING FAST. SAID ABOUT 1000 HAVE PROBABLY LEFT IN PAST 2 WKS, LEAVING FEWER THAN 6000. QUOTES EMBASSY OFFICIAL THAT IS HOPED GET AMERICANS DOWN TO 2000 WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. WP'S WEINTRAUB AND SUN'S TREWHITT QUOTE US OFFICIALS THAT VOA NOT MENTIONING POSSIBLE US EVACUATION FROM SVN BECAUSE SAIGON MIGHT INTERPRET IT AS OFFICIAL ABANDONMENT. SUN'S KUMPA QUOTES NESSEN THAT PRES DID NOT EXCEED LEGAL AUTHORITY BY EVACUATING KHMERS AND TCNS FROM PP.

KY FINDS GVN MIL VICTORY IMPOSSIBLE, CALLS ON THIEU RESIGN, BE REPLACED BY NATL SALVATION FRONT (TUOHY, LAT 4/13). SVN GEN STAFF HAS SET UP COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE DEGREE

OF RESPONSIBILITY AMONG TOP BRASS FOR LOSS OF NORTHERN PROVS (WP). LAT'S MCARTHUR IN SAIGON (4/13) OPINES THAT CAMBODIA FALL WILL HAVE LITTLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON SVN MIL ACTION. PHINQ REPORTS THIEU HAS NAMED NEW 30-MAN "WARCABINET" IN EFFORT CALM COUNTRY, VOWED WILL NOT SURRENDER, CALLED FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON BASIS OF C-F. WP'S MCCOMBS SEES BLEAK FUTURE FOR SVN DESPITE NEW CABINET AND DEFENSE XUAN LOC, SINCE COMMUNISTS MOVE MEN AND

EQUIPMENT SOUTH AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. WSJ'S KANN (4/14) BELIEVES REMAINS OF NON-COMMUNIST SVN LIVES ON BORROWED TIME THAT APPEARS RUNNING OUT. NOTES MORE VIETS PONDER WAYS TO LEAVE COUNTRY.

COMMUNISTS BLAST BIEN HOA AMMO DUMP, WHILE ARVN GAINS MORE TERRITORY AT XUAN LOC (NYDN). SHELLING REPORTED AROUND XUAN LOC, AT TAY NINH, AND IN DELTA DISTRICT TOWN (AP, SUN). NO IMMEDIATE REPORTS ON DAMAGE AT BIEN HOA. ARVN SCORED GAINS ON SAIGON'S SOUTHERN APPROACHES. THIEU SAYS NEW CABINET HAS 4 MAJOR TASKS: DEFEAT COMMUNISTS, COUNTERATTACK TO RETAKE LOST TERRITORY, "STABILIZE THE REAR," AND STRENGTHEN FIGHTING SPIRIT OF SVN AND ARMY (UPI, CHITRIB). SHELLING ANGERS CAN THO RESIDENTS, BUT NO PANIC. SOME 75 AMERICANS REMAIN IN DELTA (NYT). GVN FORCES AT XUAN LOC HOLD OUT, HOPE CAN END SIEGE AS NVA MOVES UP MORE TROOPS AND VIETS WORRY OVER END OF US AID (BROWNE, NYT). NO IMMEDIATE REACTION TO NEW SAIGON GOVT IN BROADCASTS FROM COMMUNIST SIDE (PHINQ). UNCLASSIFIED

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GVN FONMIN AT TIME OF C-F, TRAN VAN LAM, SAYS GVN AGREED SIGN ONLY AFTER HAK PROMISED ANY NVA ATTACK WOULD BE MET BY US MIL ACTION; ADDS NIXON ALSO PROMISED, IN LETTER TO THIEU, TO REACT "IMMEDIATELY AND VIGOROUSLY" TO ANY LARGE-SCALE NVN OFFENSIVE. LAM ADDS NO SECRET AGREEMENT SIGNED (AP NYT, PHINQ).

VC DELEGATION CHIEF IN SAIGON BLASTS THIEU AS STOOGES, FORD AS CRIMINAL; REITERATES NEGOTIATIONS CAN ONLY BEGIN WHEN THIEU LEAVES, US STOPS MIL AID; DECLINES OFFER ANY GUARANTEE TO AMERICANS IN SAIGON, SINCE MOST WERE "SOLDIERS IN DISGUISE" AND ADMIN PLAN TO EVACUATE THEM IN EMERGENCY IS "TREACHEROUS SCHEME" (LAMB, LAT 4/13).

SWISS CHARTER AIRLINE COMPANY BALAIR CONFIRMS IT HAD REFUSED FLY 16 TONS GOLD FROM SAIGON BECAUSE OF "POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS"; DOES NOT IDENTIFY EUROPEAN BROKERS WHO MADE REQUEST (UPI, NYDN; REUTER, NYT).

NINE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES VOTE SVN 4.95 MILLION IN FOOD, MEDICAL AID, AGREE ON ORAL MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON

CALLING ON ALL SIDES IN VN WAR RESPECT C-F (UPI, NYDN).
EEC COUNTRIES TURN DOWN US REQUEST THEY APPEAL TO
HANOI FOR C-F IN SVN, BUT WILLING CALL ON ALL SIDES END
WAR (KEMEZIS, NYT). USSR SAYS WILL SEND FOOD TO AREAS
NOW HELD BY VC (WREN, NYT). PRIVATE FRENCH ORGANIZATION,
INTL RED CROSS, USSR, AND EEC ANNOUNCE PLANS SEND AID
TO SVN (WP).

WP'S BECKER NOTES DULLES ARRIVAL OF 28 KHMER ORPHANS.
ROZHON (SUN) REPORTS DESPITE COMPLICATED PLANS, MOST
KHMER ORPHANS DESTINED FOR US WILL REMAIN IN CAMBODIA.
"OPERATION BABYLIFT" ENDS AFTER 980 INFANTS REACH US
(UPI, NYT). SPOKESMAN FOR "BABYLIFT" DENIES VIET
OFFICIALS' CHILDREN FLOWN OUT, SAYS ALL BONA-FIDE ORPHANS
FROM SVN ORPHANAGES (UPI, NYDN; JONES, LAT 4/14). GREENWAY
(WP) IN SAIGON NOTES SOME VIETS AGREE WITH VC THAT MASS
REMOVAL OF ORPHANS "SHAMEFUL," THOUGH OPINIONS VARY.
BALTO N-A (4/14) EXPRESSES PRIDE IN AMERICANS WHO ADOPTED
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VIET CHILDREN, SEES THEM EXTENDING GENEROUS HAND TO
UNFORTUNATES. CHITRIB NOTES 3 AREA WOMEN WENT TO DC TO
JOIN NATL EFFORT TO PRESSURE CONGRESS INTO ENACTING
EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROGRAM FOR THEIR FAMILIES IN VN.
NYDN'S LIFF DOES HUMAN-INTEREST PIECE ON LOCAL RESIDENT
WHO LEFT FOR SAIGON TO TRY GET VIET FINANCEE OUT.

LAT'S JAMESON (PHINQ) AT PHU QUOC ISLAND, DESCRIBES
"LUCKY" REFUGEE WOMAN WHO STILL HAS CHILDREN THOUGH
HUSBAND LOST. ROCHE (BALT N-A 4/14) SEES AS NO
COINCIDENCE THAT FLOW OF REFUGEES IN SVN AND CAMBODIA
IS AWAY FROM COMMUNISTS. GLOBE'S STORIN IN SAIGON
(4/13) FINDS TERROR OF VC IS WHAT PROMPTED REFUGEES
TO FLEE, AND NOT JUST FEAR OF BATTLEFIELD. LAT'S LAMB
(4/13) FINDS SAIGON GROTESQUE AFTER FIVE-YEAR ABSENCE.
CHITRIB'S YATES FROM DELTA HAMLET REPORTS HOW WAR CAME
TO FORMERLY QUIET COMMUNITY, AND HOW RESIDENTS ACCEPT
IT.

TASS REPORTS THOUSANDS THROG DA NANG RR STATION TO
SEE FIRST PASSENGER TRAIN OFF TO HUE SINCE COMMUNISTS
TOOK CONTROL (UPI, WP).

REBEL TROOPS REPORTEDLY ENTER PP, FALL OF CAPITAL
APPEARS IMMINENT. AIRPORT CLOSED BY HEAVY ENEMY FIRE
(PHINQ). REFUGEES SAY REBELS OVERRUN AIRPORT. SAK
SUTSAKHAN VOWS GO ON FIGHTING. PILOT WHO BOMBED GKR
HIGH COMMAND REPORTEDLY ARRESTED (WP). AFP PP DESCRIBES
T-28 ATTACK ON MIL HQ THAT CAUSED RUMOR MILL TO STEP UP
PRODUCTION (WP). FANK REINFORCEMENTS FIGHT REBELS TO
TRY PREVENT PP-POCHENTONG ROAD FROM BEING CUT. INSURGENTS
PUSH INTO WESTERN AND NW EDGES OF CAPITAL. SIHANOUK

SAYS CITY WILL FALL "IN DAYS AND PERHAPS IN HOURS"(AP, SUN).
REBELS CALL ON FANK TO LAY DOWN WEAPONS AND JOIN INSURGENTS.
UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAY HUNDREDS OF REBEL TROOPS
INFILTRATING PP WITH REFUGEES (NYDN). NYT'S SCHANBERG
IN PP DESCRIBES RUMOR-RIDDEN CITY AS BATTLE NEARS. IN
SEPARATE ARTICLE, TELLS OF CONTINUED ADVANCE BY REBELS

DESPITE VNAF BOMBING. SAYS KNOWS OF ONLY 6 AMCITS, ALL
NEWSMEN, STILL IN PP.
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DOD SAYS 17 AIRDROPS HAVE BEEN MADE OVER CAMBODIA SINCE
SATURDAY, BUT NONE IN PP AREA (NYT). ON FIRST DAY OF
KHMER NEW YEAR SUNDAY, CAMBODIANS IN US SAY PEACE IS THE
MAIN THING NO MATTERS WHO WINS (NYT). LAT'S SNITOWSKY
IN PP (4/14) BELIEVES BLOODBATH NOW LOOMS AS REBELS MOVE
IN. BASES BELIEF ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE DURING WAR
AND ON FATE OF CAPTURED NEWSMEN AND REBEL RADIO THAT TALKS
OF "SUPERTRAITORS" WHO WILL BE DEALT WITH BY PEOPLE'S
TRIBUNALS AFTER VICTORY.

SIHANOUK REASSERTS PLAN TO WITHDRAW FROM PUBLIC LIFE
AFTER WAR ENDS (REUTER, NYT). CHITRIB'S KIRK (4/13)
DESCRIBES REBELS WHO FIGHT GKR AND THEMSELVES. SEES
ISSUE OF WHO WILL LEAD COUNTRY AS COMPLICATED, WITH DEEP
CONFLICT BETWEEN SIHANOUK AND KHIEU SAMPHAN FACTIONS.

LAOTIAN NATL ASSEMBLY DISSOLVES TO PAVE WAY FOR
SELECTION OF NEW LEGISLATURE WITH EQUAL REPRESENTATION
TO RIGHTISTS, LEFTISTS (WP). NYT'S WEINRAUB IN VIENTIANE
(4/13) FINDS LAOS WORRIED BY SITUATION IN SVN AND
CAMBODIA (IN 4/14 USIA WIRELESS FILE). WEINRAUB (4/14)
DETECTS STRAINS IN THE COALITION GOVT, BUT NOTES IT HOLDS
TOGETHER MOSTLY BECAUSE US, USSR, CHINA AND NVN SEEM
CONTENT TO KEEP IT INTACT (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

2. JAPAN

PEPPER (SUN 4/13) NOTES PRES MET MIYAZAWA BRIEFLY
SATURDAY, REITERATED US COMMITMENT DEFEND JAPAN,
PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN DETERMINING "FUTURE PEACE AND
STABILITY" IN ASIA. WH SPOKESMAN SAID MIKI WOULD VISIT
WASHINGTON LATER IN YEAR. ADDS MIYAZAWA TOLD PRESS
AFTER MEETING HAK FRIDAY "COMPLETELY SATISFIED" WITH US
ASSURANCE WOULD HONOR MST COMMITMENT.

LDP WINS 14 OF 17 GOVERNORSHIPS CONTESTED SUNDAY.
LOSES KANAGAWA, FAILS OUST LEFTIST INCUMBENT MINOBE
IN TOKYO. IN PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLIES NATIONWIDE LDP
DECLINES FROM 1,535 TO 1,290 SEATS, LEFTIST PARTIES
ALSO LOSE GROUND AS INDEPENDENTS WIN 373 SEATS(AP, PHINQ).
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MINOBE DEFEATED YOUNG, HAWKISH ISHIHARA, WHO SUPPORTS REARMAMENT AND OPPOSED RAPPROCHMENT WITH PRC, BY ABOUT 300,000 OF 5 MILLION VOTES CAST (SUN).

ROLLOW (WP) SAYS NAKASONE CALLS RESULTS "A DRAW" IN "YEAR OF STABILITY", WHICH SEEN DAMPENING SPECULATION

LDP MIGHT CALL GENERAL ELECTIONS THIS YEAR. NOTES MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT FOR LEFT SEEN OSAKA, WHERE KURODA WON WITH ONLY COMMUNIST SUPPORT.

HALLORAN (NYT) VIEWS RETURNS AS "MODERATE SWING" TO RIGHT AFTER STEADY DRIFT LEFT IN RECENT YEARS, AND MODEST GAINS FOR MIKI, EVEN THOUGH LDP STILL WEAK IN URBAN CENTERS. BUT NOTES INCREASED LDP VOTE IN CITIES ESPECIALLY TOKYO SHOWED END TO CONSERVATIVE SLIDE THERE. QUOTES ISHIHARA SAYING NEW EMERGING FORCE SUPPORTED HIM "THAT WILL EVENTUALLY CHANGE JAPANESE POLITICS FROM ITS VERY BASE" ON DAY "NOT FAR AWAY."

JAPAN, PRC MONDAY EXCHANGE DRAFTS PROPOSED TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP, ACCORDING MOFA SOURCES; NO DETAILS RELEASED (REUTER, WP).

DEP PM TAKEO FUKUDA TELLS FOREIGN PRESS CLUB MONDAY JAPAN MUST PLAN FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN CONTEXT OF OVERALL WORLD GROWTH (REUTER, WP). SAYS EPA DRAFTING NEW 5-YR PLAN THAT STRESSES ENERGY CONSERVATION, IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS, CORRECTION SOCIAL INEQUITIES AGGRAVATED BY INFLATION (JOC).

3. PHILIPPINES

OBERDORFER (WP) IN MANILA QUOTES AMB SULLIVAN SAYING GOP REASSESSMENT OF US SECURITY TIES "APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY." SAYS SULLIVAN CONFIDENT MARCOS WILL DECIDE "ULTIMATELY" RETAIN TWO OF LARGEST US BASES IN WORLD, CLARK, SUBIC, BUT NOTES EVOLVING GOP POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN REGION GIVES CREDENCE TO IDEA BASES MAY BE SCRAPPED "SOONER OR LATER" (USIA WIRELESS FILE 4/15).

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TREASURY BEGINS PROBE COMPLAINT PHILIPPINES SUBSIDIZING GLAZED CERAMIC WALL TILE TO US; IMPORTS FIRST NINE MONTHS LAST YEAR TOTALLED 1.1 MILLION DOLS (JOC-WASHINGTON).

4. SINGAPORE

WP (4/13) PRINTS TEXT OF PM YEW APR 7 SPEECH TO NZ PRESS CLUB, SAYING "ERA HAS COME TO AN END...ONCE AMERICA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SHE COULD NO LONGER INTERVENE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA," IT FAIR ASSUME CONTEST FOR INFLUENCE OVER REGION WILL BE MAINLY BETWEEN PRC, SOVIET, AND FATE OF SEA NATIONS IS TO BE CAUGHT IN THEIR COMPETITIVE CLASH (USIA WIRELESS FILE 4/15).

5. INDONESIA

WSJ (NY) SAYS INDONESIA'S CENTRAL BANK NEGOTIATING RAISE FUNDS FROM US, EUR BANKS TO REFUND ESTIMATED 2 BILLION DOL PERTAMINA DEBTS; MARKET SOURCES SAY SEEKING INITIAL FINANCING IN 200-400 MILLION DOL RANGE, OVER FIVE YEARS.

6. MALAYSIA

ON RETURN FROM EMERGENCY MEETING BILATERAL BORDER COMMITTEE IN BANGKOK, HOME MIN GHAZALI SHAFIE MONDAY SAYS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH RTG ON UNDISCLOSED JOINT MEASURES TO COUNTER UPSURGE IN COMMUNIST GUERRILLA ATTACKS ALONG COMMON BORDER. GHAZALI ALSO SAYS ASEAN LIKELY DISCUSS REGIONAL PEACE ZONE PLAN IN MEETING NEXT MONTH AT KL (UPI, NYT; WP).

7. AUSTRALIA

RETIRED AUSTRALIAN AF GROUP CAPTAIN JOHN HAMPSHIRE SAID IN INTERVIEW MONDAY TOOK PART IN 1944 US FIFTH AF TEST BOMBING OF BARRIER REEF ISLAND WITH POISON GAS; LEARNED LATER TEST KILLED "NUMBER" OF US LIFE-TERM CONVICTS WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR TEST; APPARENTLY TOLD SENTENCES WOULD BE SHORTENED IF SURVIVED. SAYS EXPERIMENT TESTED WHETHER GAS USEFUL AGAINST JAPANESE TROOPS DUG IN ON PACIFIC ISLANDS. DOD SAYS RECORDS ON HAND SHOW NO US TEST OF TYPE ALLEGED, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT CONTINUING RESEARCH RETIRED HISTORICAL FILE. DEF MIN BARNARD ORDERS FULL INVESTIGATION (UPI, NYDN; WP; PHINQ).

8. CHINA

LAT'S SHOGAN IN HONOLULU (4/14) VIEWS PASSAGE OF VP ON WAY REPRESENT US AT CKS FUNERAL AS SIGN NATIONALIST CHINESE PARTISANS RETAIN SOME CLOUT IN US. NYDN PHOTO SHOWS NY CHINESE AT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CKS.

TEN FORMER NATIONALIST OFFICERS RELEASED BY PRC AFTER SERVING SENTENCES FOR "WAR CRIMES" ARRIVED-HK MONDAY, HOPING OBTAIN VISAS FOR TAIWAN (WP). IF PERMITTED, WILL BE FIRST CHINESE TO TRAVEL PEKING-TAIPEI IN 25 YEARS

WITH PERMISSION BOTH GOVTS (NYT SPECIAL). (AP PHOTO IN NYT).

PBS SHOWS SHIRLEY MACLAINE'S FILM "A CHINA MEMOIR," TUESDAY EVENING. WP'S JEAN WHITE OBSERVES MANY WHO WILL WATCH "HAVE ALREADY MADE UP THEIR MINDS WHETHER TO PRAISE OR CONDEMN IT"; LAUDS PRODUCER FOR "ADMIRABLE WISDOM"

IN BALANCING WITH 45-MIN PANEL DISCUSSION IN WHICH -- IRONICALLY -- O. EDMUND CLUBB PRICKS BUBBLE OF MACLAINE ENTHUSIASM WITH SHARP QUESTIONS. SUN'S BILL CARTER SAYS LITTLE MACLAINE WOULD EVER THANK NIXON FOR, EXCEPT MAYBE CHINA; FINDS ALMOST NOTHING BUT SMILING FACES IN MACLAINE MOVIE -- SO NATURAL IT COULD BE FILM ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS AROUND THE WORLD.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. INDOCHINA

BUTTERFIELD, NYT, SAYS GVN VIRTUALLY PARALYZED. DISCUSSES NEW CABINET AND REMOVAL OF KHIEM, THE ONLY REAL THREAT TO THIEU (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

HARSCH, CSM, SAYS FUTURE US FOPOL WILL HAVE TO LEAN MORE HEAVILY ON DIPLOMACY THAN ON GUNS. DISCUSSES UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPACT OF MILITARY DIPLOMACY ON EVENTS IN VIET NAM, CHINA AND KOREA (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

CSM SAYS POLITICAL SOLUTION IN VN REQUIRES DEPARTURE OF THIEU. US CAN HELP PROCESS BY TYING MIL AID TO PROGRESS IN POLITICAL TALKS (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

RUSSEL BRINES, CSM, SAYS DOMINO THEORY A REALITY AND POINTS TO INCREASED DANGERS FOR OTHER SEASIAN NATIONS FROM LOCAL COMMUNISTS SUPPORTED BY HANOI, PEKING OR MOSCOW (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT SAYS THE ONLY INDISPUTABLE US COMMITMENT TO VN IS TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID, DISTRIBUTED PREFERABLY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. URGES UN AND USG TO SEPARATE CURRENT EMERGENCY FROM POLITICAL CONTROVERSY.

MIDDLETON, NYT, SAYS THE ARVN HAS CAPABILITY OF MOUNTING SMALL CAREFULLY CONTROLLED ATTACKS AGAINST COMMUNISTS BUT WOULD BE MISTAKEN TO RISK ALL OF ITS ASSETS IN A MAJOR SET PIECE BATTLE. EFFORT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS PREVENTING THE COMMUNISTS FROM LAUNCHING A MAJOR CONCENTRATION OF FORCES FOR A MAJOR OFFENSIVE (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

MORTON KONDRACK, BALTIMORE, SAYS FORD BUYING TIME TO SAVE AMERICANS FROM SOUTH VIETNAMESE IN HIS NEW AID REQUESTS. UP TO 200,000 S. VIETS WHO SHOULD ALSO BE EVACUATED PROBABLY CANNOT BE. PROSPECT IS THAT US INVOLVEMENT WITH VN WILL END MISERABLY AND DISCORDANTLY.

LOFTON, PHOENIX, CHARGES A LARGE SHARE OF THE BLAME IN VN RESTS WITH HAK FOR RAMMING THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT DOWN THE THROATS OF THE GVN. SAYS THIEU CAVED IN WHEN HAK THREATENED AN END OF US MIL ASSISTANCE.

KARNOW, NYT, DRAWS PARALLELS BETWEEN CHINA AND VIET NAM. SOLE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE WAS THE WISE DECISION NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN A FIGHT TO SAVE MAINLAND CHINA OURSELVES. IT WAS TOO LATE A LONG TIME AGO IN VN (SEE UNCLASSIFIED

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USIA WIRELESS FILE).

BOB WIEDRICH, CHITRIB, CRITICIZES "HEARTS AND MINDS" PRODUCER SCHNEIDER, FOR INSULTING THE INTELLIGENCE OF US PUBLIC BY READING HIS CABLE FROM THE PRG.

RICHARD HOLBROOKE IN LATIMES (4/14) SAYS NATIONAL INTEREST HAS NOT BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED IN VN. US STILL STRONGEST NATION IN WORLD AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED INTERNALLY IS MAJOR ISSUE, NOT WHAT HAS HAPPENED ABROAD (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

KEVIN BUCKLEY, LATIMES (4/14) SAYS A REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN VN WILL INHERIT DISORDER, A DIRECT RESULT OF US POLICY. ECONOMY IN TATTERS. WAR HAD BEEN MADE THE NATIONAL INDUSTRY. FOR FIRST TIME IN A CENTURY, WITH A COMMUNIST VICTORY, VIET FUTURE WILL BE IN THEIR OWN HANDS (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

PROF ERNEST MAY, LATIMES, (4/14) SAYS VN HAS FADED AS A US DOMESTIC ISSUE. FEW REPERCUSSIONS LIKELY IF VN FALLS (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

MCARTHUR IN LATIMES (4/14) SAYS CAMB A SIDESHOW TO THE MAIN EVENT IN SVN. ONLY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS TO BE FELT IN SVN (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

TREWHITT, BALTIMORE SUN, (4/14) DISCUSSES FORD'S CONGRESSIONAL ADDRESS LAST WEEK AND SAYS CONGRESS HAS DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING FULLY THE DETAILS OF WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE REQUEST FOR USE OF MIL FORCE TO ASSIST IN EVACUATIONS. SEES NO SUPPORT FOR THE ADMIN (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

WSJ (APRIL 14) SUGGESTS SOME OF THOSE CAUTIONING AGAINST "RECRIMINATIONS" IN CURRENT INDOCHINA SITUATION ACTUALLY SEEK TO FORECLOSE DEBATE, CLARIFICATION OF PICTURE. ARGUES THAT DENIAL OF US AID DEFINITELY HAD ROLE IN SVN SETBACKS, AND THERE PLAINLY WILL BE IMPACT ON US WORLD INFLUENCE AS RESULT OF INDOCHINA DEFEATS. IN SECOND EDIT, WSJ VIEWS PRES' REQUEST FOR SHARP INCREASE IN SVN MIL UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE AS FUTILE -- BECAUSE CONGRESS SEEMS CERTAIN TO REJECT IT -- BUT ALSO NECESSARY -- BECAUSE IT KEEPS LINES OF RESPONSIBILITY CLEAR.

REVIEWING PRES' APR 10 ADDRESS, CHITRIB (APR 12) MAINTAINS THAT TO SUGGEST PARIS ACCORDS PROVIDE BASIS FOR FINAL VN SOLUTION IS TO DEAL WITH DIPLOMATIC MAKE-BELIEVE.

CHITRIB'S GREELEY IS INCLINED TO THINK WE SHOULD NOT "SEND ANY MORE GOOD MONEY AFTER BAD" IN VN; BUT ALSO CONCEDES HE'S BAFFLED BY US "LIBERALS'" MORAL ARGUMENTS THAT COMMUNISM "IS BETTER FOR VN THAN ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVE."

KILPATRICK (SUN) DEPLORES FATE OF SVN--DEPRIVED OF US CRUTCHES, CURSED WITH LEADERS INCAPABLE OF LEADING, AND THEIR MISFORTUNE COMPOUNDED BY FOLLIES OF PAST US ADMINS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

SUN MAINTAINS ADMIN, CONGRESS MUST QUICKLY DECIDE HOW PLANS TO EVACUATE AMERICANS FROM SVN CAN BEST BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE VIETNAMESE--AND WHETHER ANY ADDITIONAL PLANS, SPECIFICALLY FOR VIETS, CAN BE CONSIDERED WITHIN RISKS ADMIN, CONGRESS MUTUALLY ACCEPT (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

GLOBE (APR 12) INSISTS WOULD BE UNWISE TO APPROPRIATE 720 MILLION -- OR 300 MILLION--FOR VN MIL AID BECAUSE "COULD DO NO GOOD AND MIGHT DO CONSIDERABLE HARM." FEELS "MOST DISCOURAGING THING" ABOUT FORD'S APR 10 SPEECH WAS THAT HE DID NOT EVEN MENTION POSSIBILITY OF VN NEGOTIATION.

MCGRORY (WSTAR APR 13) COMPLAINS AID'S PARKER, EA'S MILLER IN RECENT APPEARANCE BEFORE KENNEDY SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES GAVE "LITTLE MORE THAN NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER."

10. MALAYSIA

BU PROF BERNARD RUBIN (CONSULTANT AT MARA INST OF TECHNOLOGY, MALAYSIA) DECLARES IN CSM THAT ONE OF MOST FASCINATING SUCCESS STORIES IN DEVELOPING WORLD IS TAKING UNCLASSIFIED

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PLACE ALMOST UNNOTICED IN MALAYSIA. THIRTY YEARS AGO
PENINSULA HAD ALL MAKINGS OF A VN-TYPE SITUATION, BUT
BRITAIN DEPRIVED INDIGENOUS COMMUNIST OF "FIGHTING CAUSE"
BY GRANTING INDEPENDENCE AND SETTING TIMETABLE FOR
TRANSFER OF POWER. SINCE 1957 INDEPENDENCE, MALAYSIA'S
LEADERS HAVE MAINTAINED WORKING DEMOCRACY BY SETTING
REALISTIC GOALS, KEEPING STEADY PACE IN AGRICULTURAL,
INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, AND ABOVE ALL BY FINELY BALANCING

INTERESTS OF MALAY AND CHINESE ETHNIC GROUPS, WHOSE
COOPERATION FUNDAMENTAL TO PROGRESS. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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